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Page: 1
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 115024 021942Z
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115024

BUJUMBURA FOR CHARGE AND DAR ES SALAAM FOR ARUSHA OBSERVER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AMGT RW BY TZ

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT FROM THE SITREP FOR MAY 2 ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

RWANDA/BURUNDI SITREP FOR MAY 2

SITUATION ON THE GROUND:

RWANDA: GENERAL RUSATIRA REPORTED THAT THE RPF HAD
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 115024 021942Z

CONTROL OF MOST OF KIGALI. THE RPF ALSO HAS CONTROL OF THE RGF MILITARY CAMP KAMI TO THE NORTH OF KIGALI AND CAMP GAKO TO THE SOUTH OF KIGALI. IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, THE RPF HAS FIRM CONTROL OF BYUMBA, RWAMAGANA AND KIBUNGO. THE REBEL SOLDIERS ALSO CONTROL THE BRIDGE AT RUSUMO FALLS AT THE OFFICIAL BORDER CROSSING POINT INTO TANZANIA. RUHENERI (AN RGF MILITARY STRONGHOLD IN THE NORTH) IS REPORTEDLY SURROUNDED BY THE RPF. THE REBELS SAY THEY WILL STARVE THE RGF OUT UNTIL THEY

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Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

Current Handling: ONLY

Document Number: 1994STATE115024

Channel: n/a

SURRENDER. (AF/C TELCON WITH KIGALI).

GENERAL DALLAIRE REPORTS THAT THE RPF NOW SEEMS STRETCHED RATHER THIN; IT HAS BEEN MODESTLY REINFORCED BUT NOTHING LIKE THE 30,000 REINFORCEMENTS CLAIMED BY THE FRENCH. DALLAIRE REPORTS SOME SUMMARY EXECUTIONS BY THE RPF BUT GENERALLY GOOD BEHAVIOR BEHIND THE LINES; ALTHOUGH THE MOOD IS GOING SOUR AS THEY DISCOVER MORE AND MORE TUTSI BODIES AS THEY ADVANCE. (AF/C TELCON WITH KIGALI)

A FORMER RWANDAN PEACE CORPS DOCTOR REPORTED THAT SHE AND OTHERS IN THE MILLES COLLINES HOTEL WERE BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY THE RGF. THE RGF HAS SAID IT WILL EITHER EXCHANGE THEM FOR MILITARY OFFICERS HELD BY THE RPF OR KILL EVERYONE AT THE HOTEL BY MAY 6 IF NO EXCHANGE IS NEGOTIATED. (AF/C TELCON WITH KIGALI)

RADIO MILLES COLLINES ANNOUNCED THAT THE FUNERAL FOR PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA WILL BE HELD ON MAY 5. (AF/C TELCON WITH KIGALI)

A/S BUSHNELL SPOKE WITH GENERAL KAGAME OVER THE WEEKEND,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 115024 021942Z
URGING THE RPF TO AGREE TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. KAGAME SAID THAT THE RPF WOULD RESPECT A CEASEFIRE BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT SUCH A CEASEFIRE WOULD DO NOTHING TO STOP THE MASSACRE OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS. KAGAME ALSO VEHMENTLY DENIED THAT THE RPF HAD CLOSED THE BORDER WITH TANZANIA AND SAID UNARMED CIVILIANS BEHIND THEIR LINES WOULD BE SAFE. (STATE 114678)

IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A/S BUSHNELL AND THE RGF'S ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF BIZIMUNGU ON SUNDAY, BIZIMUNGU RELUCTANTLY REITERATED HIS EARLIER CLAIM THAT THE GOR WOULD STOP THE MASSACRES OF CIVILIANS WITHIN 48 HOURS IF THE RPF RESPECTED A NEGOTIATED CEASEFIRE. (STATE 114677)

BURUNDI: THE BUJUMBURA AREA HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY FREE OF GUNFIRE SINCE FRIDAY MORNING AND THE INTERIOR IS RELATIVELY CALM. THE DISPLACED PERSONS FROM KAMENGE HAVE LEFT THE STADIUM. POST ESTIMATES ANOTHER 1,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES ENTERED BURUNDI THIS WEEKEND, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 37,000. AN ESTIMATED 20-25 CIVILIANS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED AND ANOTHER 20-25 WOUNDED IN LAST WEEK'S DISARMAMENT OPERATION IN KAMENGE. THE MILITARY REPORTED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

8-10 DEATHS AMONG THE SECURITY FORCES. 120 PERSONS WERE TAKEN IN FOR QUESTIONING, 25 HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED. APPARENTLY ONLY A FEW WEAPONS WERE CONFISCATED DURING THE ENTIRE OPERATION AND SOME ARMED INDIVIDUALS MAY HAVE ESCAPED TO ZAIRE. (BUJUMBURA 1523 AND AF/C TELCON WITH BUJUMBURA)

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

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PAGE 04 STATE 115024 021942Z

GENERAL DALLAIRE PROPOSED AN EXPANDED FORCE FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL. DALLAIRE REMAINS IN DAILY CONTACT WITH MILITARY LEADERS OF RWANDA AND THE RPF AND IS SEEKING TO BRING AN END TO VIOLENCE AND PROMOTE A CEASEFIRE. HE ALSO HAS RECENTLY NEGOTIATED SOME COOPERATION FROM THE INTERHAMWE YOUTH MILITIA TO STOP THE KILLINGS. GENERAL RUSATIRA, HOWEVER, REPORTS THAT MOST OF THE KILLINGS HAVE STOPPED BECAUSE NO TUTSIS ARE LEFT IN CERTAIN AREAS; MOST HAVE BEEN KILLED. (AF/C TELCON WITH KIGALI)

THE RPF ISSUED A STATEMENT OVER THE WEEKEND OPPOSING ANY ENLARGED UN INTERVENTION FORCE AND ASKING THAT SRSG BOOH-BOOH BE REPLACED. THE RPF SAID IT WOULD ALLOW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO VISIT AREAS BEHIND ITS FRONT LINES TO CONFIRM THAT NO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE BEING COMMITTED ON THEIR SIDE AND TO SEE THAT CIVILIANS WERE BEING TREATED WELL. (RPF STATEMENT 4/30)

PRESIDENT MWINYI HELD A MEETING 5/1 WITH UNSC PERMANENT MEMBER, ARUSHA OBSERVER AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF THE RWANDAN PEACE PROCESS. THE RPF AND GOR DELEGATIONS HAVE AGREED TO MEET IN ARUSHA ON TUESDAY, MAY 3. (DAR ES SALAAM 2699)

GENERAL RUSATIRA REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RADIO MESSAGE WAS HEARD IN RWANDA OVER THE WEEKEND. HE SAID THAT THOSE IN THE MILITARY WHO FAVORED AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. (AF/C TELCON WITH KIGALI)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
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Page: 4

Channel: n/a

PAGE 05 STATE 115024 021942Z
GOF AFRICANISTS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PROBLEMS IN RWANDA
AND BURUNDI MUST BE ADDRESSED ON A REGIONAL AND
FRANCOPHONE BASIS, AND THAT THERE CAN'T BE A DURABLE
SOLUTION UNLESS MOBUTU IS MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH
THE PROCESS THAN HE WAS DURING THE FIRST ARUSHA TALKS.

INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN TO USUN TO PURSUE A NEW
RESOLUTION ON RWANDA TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND IMMEDIATE
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RWANDAN REFUGEE POPULATIONS ON
EITHER SIDE OF THE RWANDAN BORDER. (STATE 114636)

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REPORTED THAT AN ESTIMATED 400,000
RWANDAN REFUGEES ARE IN TANZANIA IN THE NGARA REGION
AFTER THE LAST EXODUS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 29. (NOTE: MOST
SOURCES ESTIMATE 250,000.) WFP ADVISED THAT IT HAD ENOUGH
FOOD STOCKS IN THE NGARA AREA TO FEED THESE REFUGEES FOR
FIVE DAYS. TANZANIAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE REGION
TO HELP PREVENT POSSIBLE VIOLENCE IN THE CAMPS SINCE THE
REFUGEE POPULATION INCLUDES BOTH HUTUS AND TUTSIS. (ROME
6978). END TEXT.

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